

Fourth meeting of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Development (IDCD)

26th February 2008, Conference Room 1, Irish Aid

Summary Minutes

Welcome speech from Minister of State, Michael Kitt T.D.

The Minister welcomed Committee Members noting that the Committee was entering an important phase of its work, with a target of reporting to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by next June. The Minister expressed a warm welcome to representatives of Dóchas, the umbrella organisation of Irish Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and noted the work they had done in the area of policy coherence for development (PCD). He said their presentation would allow the Committee to hear the latest views from NGOs in this area. He also welcomed Mr. Bradshaw of the Department of Finance whose presentation focused on Ireland and the World Bank.

(1) Presentation by Dóchas - *Being a Champion for Development – Enhancing PCD*

Dóchas was represented by Helen Keogh, Chairperson, Hans Zomer, Director and Eamonn Casey, Policy Officer. Ms Keogh gave an oral presentation, supplemented by a more detailed Powerpoint presentation which was circulated to Committee members. She said the Committee had made a good start and welcomed its open and transparent method of working. She called on the Committee to be pro-active ‘a Champion for PCD’ and not to wait for problems to arise to react. The Committee should draw on the political will which led to its establishment to deliver and demonstrate impact. She noted NGO’s focus on the need for the Committee to focus initially on the first part of its mandate (i.e. to strengthen coherence in the Government’s approach to development) as opposed to the second (making the best use of the expertise and skills available across the public service).

The Committee was interested in Dóchas’ views on the areas of incoherence which it might most productively tackle and Mr. Murphy, Irish Aid said the Committee would be happy to receive Dóchas’ input in this regard.

(2) Presentation by Mr. Bob Bradshaw, Department of Finance – *Ireland and the World Bank*

Mr. Bradshaw provided a comprehensive outline of Ireland’s engagement with the World Bank on behalf of the International Financial Institutions Section of the Department of Finance. It was noted that the World Bank is a significant player in the development field as were the positive links which had developed following the International Finance Corporation Forum held in Dublin.

(3) Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the third IDCD meeting were agreed by the Committee.

(4) Reports from Sub-Groups

Mr Hegarty, Irish Aid, reported on the Multilateral Organisations Sub Group meeting which had been held at the end of January. The Departments of Justice; Agriculture; Defence; Finance; Social and Family Affairs; and Foreign Affairs (Political Division) are represented on this Sub Group. The Sub Group meeting *inter alia* received a briefing on Ireland and UN System Wide Coherence; agreed to identify gaps and opportunities with a view to elaborating a strategy for the placing of Irish nationals within the staff of multilateral organisations; and recognised the general need for enhanced co-ordination between Departments on a day to day basis.

Mr Gormley, Irish Aid reported on the Skills Sets Sub Group meeting which had been held in early February. The Departments of Health; Education; Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; Enterprise, Trade and Employment; and Finance are represented on this Sub Group. The Sub Group's two main aims are making best use of the expertise and skills available across the public service in support of development cooperation; and promoting awareness of development issues within the Civil Service. Terms of Reference and a Work Programme agreed by this Sub Group were circulated to Committee members. The Sub Group planned to conduct an audit of existing technical skills transfer. The Sub Group also planned to make a proposal to the next meeting of the Committee in relation to awareness raising on development issues in Government Departments.

Mr Murphy, Irish Aid called on both Sub Groups to continue with their work and to report back to the Committee on progress.

(5) Work Programme for the Committee

The draft Work Programme which had been discussed at the November meeting was agreed subject to the addition of a reference to a presentation on Health matters being made to a future Committee meeting.

(6) Any other business

It was agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in advance of finalising a date for the April meeting of the Committee.

Mary Barrett,
IDCD Secretariat,
Irish Aid,
27th February 2008.

List of Attendees

Minister of State Michael Kitt T.D.

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| Ronan Murphy, Director General | Irish Aid |
| Rory Montgomery | Political Division, Dept. of Foreign Affairs |
| Ethna Brogan | Dept. Transport |
| Philip Doran | Dept. Defence |
| Tom O'Mahony | Dept. Environment, Heritage and Local Government |
| Anne Webster Catriona Cahill | Dept. Enterprise, Trade and Employment |
| Roger O'Connor | Dept. Communications, Energy and Natural Resources |
| Marianne Nolan Liz Jennings Dermot Quigley Bob Bradshaw | Dept. Finance |
| Seamus McLoughlin | Dept. Education and Science |
| Kevin Smyth | Dept. Agriculture, Fisheries and Food |
| Brendan Ingoldsby | Dept Health and Children |
| Philip Melville | Dept. Social and Family Affairs |
| Noel Sheahan | Arts, Sport & Tourism |
| Aileen Shanahan | Dept. Taoiseach |
| Austin Gormley | Irish Aid |
| Mary Barrett | Irish Aid |
| Kevin Carroll | Irish Aid |
| Keith Gristock | Irish Aid |
| Tom Sneyd | Irish Aid |

Via Video Link from Irish Aid, Limerick

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| Brian McElduff | Irish Aid |
| George Hegarty | Irish Aid |
| Gerard Considine | Irish Aid |

Apologies

Brian Millane, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs